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ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 7

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Friday, November 25, 1988
Hartford Civic Center
Hartford, CT

Welcome to the seventh issue of "Arena Report". I'd like to welcome new readers and thank the regulars for their continued interest. We have alot to cover this time out as the Survivors Series was last night and I'd be remiss to leave out comments on that event. Also, the second Saturday Night's Main Event of the season is tommorrow night and I'll cover that as well. Upcoming reports will be Dec. 4 from Springfield and there is talk of a Titan card on New Years Eve day in Hartford which I'll know for sure by the end of this report.

Another reminder that Arena Report comes out twice a month and is mailed the day after the show. (For the most part.) The cost is 50¢ an issue and you may order in any increments. There should be a number at the top left hand corner of this page telling you (Yeah, my paper can talk.) how many issues you have left.

All renewals, match results, and letters are to be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT. 06066. Make sure you make note of the zip code as a recent newsletter (thanks J.D.) gave the wrong zip thus some letters were a little late getting here. I hope everyone's turkey has digested as we go to ringside.

Opening Match

Lanny Poffo defeated Barry Horowitz with a sunset flip in the corner at 16:22. They ran this match in both New Haven and Springfield last month. Do they think no one goes to two shows? Do they care? Although Horowitz got my vote for jobber of the year this match was abysmal. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

W.W.F. Woman's Championship

Rockin' Robin retained her title pinning Sensational Sherri with a bulldog in 8:31. Sherri is retiring soon so they will be using Judy Martin in upcoming title defenses. *

3rd Match

Greg Valentine and Tito Santana went to a 20 minute draw. Hard to believe that 4 years ago I saw these two battle for the I-C title at Madison Square Garden in some real good bouts. This match was soooo bad. I can't remember the last time I've seen Greg in a decent bout besides last night's Survivors stint. Tito hit Greg with the flying forearm as the bell rang. Dud

4th Match

Akeem (How I hate to use that name.) over S.D. Jones in 7:04.

O.M.G. used the 747 for the pin. $\frac{1}{2}$ * just because Akeem is pretty funny to watch in his new role.

W.W.F. Tag Team Championship

Demolition and The Powers of Pain went to a double disqualification at 5:17. Mr. Fuji was with the Powers and if you don't know why, read the Survivors Series report before you go on reading. The switch didn't work for the fans in Cleveland last night and it didn't work here either. The fans still cheered the Powers but since Demo was working a babyface match they didn't know what to do so they sat on their hands (a common occurrence at Vince shows) during the match. The bout was horrible, the finish was botched by Dave Hebner as he signalled for the bell 5 seconds after all four got in the ring. Way too quick. Dud.

6th Match

Nikolai Volkoff beat Iron Mike Sharpe in 8:20. Sharpe was a sub for B. Brian Blair who I knew wouldn't be there. End came as Mike loaded the arm brace but missed a shot in the corner and Nic rolled him up for the pin. $\frac{1}{2}$ * only for the pop Mike got when he ran in and interrupted the anthem.

7th Match

Hercules beat Virgil in 3:56. DiBiase was in the corner. Basically a squash but a good one as Virgil took some nice bumps around the ring. Herc used the full nelson for the submission and then Ted tries every way to break it until he uses the chain. Of course, Herc makes the comeback clearing the ring. $**\frac{1}{2}$

8th Match

Curt Hennig beat Paul Roma with a cradle suplex in 9:03. Oh where, Oh where have your working shoes gone, oh where oh where can they be. Hennig has fallen into the Titan trance as I expected this to be decent. It's obvious Curt is now on the juice. $*\frac{1}{2}$ as he did set up the suplex with a nice "hot shot" or should we say, "perfect shot".

Main Event

Hulk Hogan beat the Big Boss Man by dq in 10:46. Slick interfered after Hogan gave the leg drop. A decent match and the heat was great. ** Nothing really, much left to say.

Hartford Notes

Crowd was 9,800 which was pretty good for Thanksgiving weekend. A lot of freebies though as they had a promotion where if you bring a toy into a jeep dealer you get four free tickets to the show.... They return here 12/31 at 1:30 which is New Years Eve. If they had ran at night, they would have died a miserable death. As it is, I don't think they'll draw that well although the card looks good. On paper anyway. Here's the line-up: Savage-Bad News for the title, Demolition-Powers return no dq., Bravo-Duggan in a flag match, (these three won't be good but the undercard is interesting) Valentine meets the debuting Ron Garvin, Rude-Hillbilly, Bolsheviks- Bushwhackers (Shepherders) Taylor-Blazer, Hennig-Ware. These last two look real good but I won't go in expecting much so maybe I'll be surprised. I'd like to thank my lovely wife ~~Cheryl~~ Cheryl who sat through this on her birthday.

Cheryl

Survivor Series Report

Since this is sort of a confusing show to report on, I'm just going to do this in paragraph form and note who eliminated who and how.

First Series

Brutus Beefcake put Danny Davis to sleep in under 2 minutes. It was a blessing to get rid of Davis so quick. Bad News Brown gave Jim Brunzell the enzuigiri. Brown then left in protest after Greg Valentine accidentally hit him. This was done to keep Bad News "undefeated". Ron Bass powerslammed Sam Houston after some great work by Sam. Valentine made Blue Blazer submit to the figure four. Yeah, I know, but at least they had Blazer miss a kneedrop from the top to hurt his knee to set it up. Brutus and the Monkey Tonk Man were then counted out of the ring. Ultimate Warrior then gave a double axe handle to Bass and then the same to Valentine to be the sole survivor. Good workrate for the most part, especially Houston. Bout went over 18:00. **

Tag Team Series

This was the best series and was really non stop action until the last 10 minutes. Bret Hart small packaged Ray Rougeau to eliminate the new Memphis settlers. This surprised me but I guess they didn't want any trouble with the Bulldogs. But since the Bulldogs were leaving, why didn't they go out first? A gesture of good will on Vince's part? I doubt it. The Bulldogs were in with the Rougeaus a few times but no major flare ups. Boris Zuchov reversed a flying body press on Jim Powers eliminating the Scallions. Marty Jannetty sunset flipped Boris to knock out the Bolsheviks. Bret Hart then backsuplexed Tully Blanchard but Tully lifted his shoulder leaving Bret's down for the pin so the Foundation was eliminated. By the way, they should push Bret as a single. He got a great reaction when he was first tagged in. Anyway, the Anvil is the pits. The Rockers and Tully and Arn were all disqualified when they were all brawling in the ring. Dynamite Kid then missed a diving head butt and Smash clotheslined him and pinned him to take care of the Bulldogs. Really surprised they lasted that long. This left the Conquistadors (another surprise), Demolition, and Powers of Pain. This is where the fun began. As Smash was coming off the ropes, Mr. Fuji pulled down the middle rope which sent Smash outside the ring where he was counted out. Axe then attacked Fuji giving him a good body slam. When action resumed Fuji tripped one of the Conquistadors and Barbarian hit him with a flying headbutt. Fuji was now the Powers manager. Demo came back to clear the ring amid boos. The switch didn't work. The fans thought Fuji was now a face manager. I think this will work once they do some t.v. angles and interviews. All the guys worked good except Bolsheviks. Might have lasted a bit long though as it went over 43:00. *** $\frac{1}{2}$

Third Series

Rick Rude gave the rude awakening to Ken Patera. (Bye Bye Ken.) Dino Bravo side slammed Scott Casey. (Nice to let a jobber in on a decent pay day.) Tito Santana gave Harley Race a flying forearm. Race has lost alot of weight. Tito then tried a sunset flip on Andre but the Giant sat on him for the pin. Hacksaw Duggan was dq'd for using the 2X4. This left Jake Roberts with Andre, Bravo, and Curt Hennig. Sorry, Rude too. But Jake DDT'd him. Andre was disqualified for choking but before he left, he headbutted Jake

allowing Hennig to pin him. Thus Bravo and Hennig were the Survivors. Match went 29:00 plus. * $\frac{1}{2}$ Nothing spectacular as Curt was the only heel who could work.

Main Event

Hulk Hogan still the star as he came out last to his own music and Savage came out first. Randy Savage hit Terry Taylor with the flying elbow. Afterwards Heenan was complaining about Rooster. I heard they have the switch scheduled for early January. Akeem gave Hillbilly Jim the 747. Boss Man bubbaslammed Koko. Ted DiBiase pinned Hercules after a kick to the back when Herc was distracted. Savage immediately snuck up from behind and cradled Ted. This left Akeem, Haku, and Bossman with Hogan and Savage. Boss Man was counted out while he was handcuffing Hogan to the ropes. Akeem joined Boss Man in beating up Hogan while Haku was doing a number on Savage. Akeem was dq'd. Them two finally went back to the dressing room. Savage kept going to the corner to tag but there was no Hulk. Can you tell me where this leads to? Slick accidentally gets kicked by Haku and Hulk charges and knocks down Heenan. Liz then picks pockets Slick and gets the keys to unlock Hulk. Hogan gets back to his corner where Randy falls into him enabling Hogan to make the tag. Hogan pins Haku after a leg drop and raises a badly beaten Macho Man. His hand that is. Hulk is posing and when Liz comes in, he picks her up which is when Savage turns around and sees it. He gives Hulk some evil stares but that's as far as it went because face it, if they turn Savage now, who main events at the other shows? I don't even know what they're going to do after Wrestlemania if they turn Randy full fledged heel. Hey, I know, bring in the son of a plumber. (I could have used a better word but I'll refrain. Action was good. Match went 28:00 plus. ** $\frac{1}{2}$

Ramblings

The big news is the turmoil engulfing the N.W.A.. A lot of wrestlers are looking to leave. Of course you know by now that The Shepherders have jumped to Titan as a face team known as the Bushwhackers. Do you think Shepherders was a good name. The only reason we liked it was because that's how they came on the scene. I just hate the role they're in. A face team as old as they are combined with road maps for foreheads won't get over as good guys. Since they left, the N.W.A. will put Eddie Gilbert & Ron Simmons against the Fantastics in the Clash and say the tape showed the Sheeps beat Simmons-Gilbert by illegal means. What else can they do?... There has also been lots of talk about Dusty being canned for a lot of screw ups including no showing three big shows last weekend for no reason. As of 11/25, here's the scoop. They will be interviewing a new booker Mon. (11/28) but even if he gets hired, he won't start until 1/2. There is no word on who this person is other than it's not Bill Watts. Thus, Dusty is still in charge which is a big mistake as he and his cohorts (J.J. and Sullivan mainly) are doing everything they can to make some big names quit. If the TBS people don't step in quick, there will be nothing left for them to run but a run down promotion. Get with it guys!.... Hard to believe that Vince changed the Jan. pay per view site from Boston to Houston. They would have sold out the Garden but they'll have to give tons of freebies in Houston for the Summit... My cable company will be carrying both Superclash III and Starrcade and yes I'm looking forward to the combined card the most....

Correspondent Reports

Mid-South Coliseum Memphis, TN.
Correspondent: Scott Bowden

October 23, 1988

One night tournament for the CWA tag belts: 1) Cactus Jack & Gary Young over Scott Steiner & Brian Lee. Cactus elbowed Lee from behind to set up the pin. * 2) Nature's Best eliminated Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden on a dq. as Golden threw one of the Justin Brothers over the top rope. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 3) Phil Hickerson & Don Bass beat Cat Garrett & Brickhouse Brown when Phil used a chain on Garrett. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Bill Dundee & Todd Morton defeated Rock N Roll R.P.M.'s by disqualification. Morton worked hard in this one. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Cactus Jack and Young over Nature's Worst. As one of the Justin's had Young rolled up, Jack hit him with his bullwhip for the pin. * 6) Dundee and Morton beat Hickerson and Bass via dq when the ref caught Hickerson using the chain. ** 7) Cactus Jack & Gary Young won the C.W.A. tag belts by defeating Bill Dundee and Todd Morton in the final round. Short but heated. As Morton was chasing Downtown Bruno, Jack blindsided him with a knee and pinned Todd. ** 8) Jeff Jarrett pinned Eric Embry to retain the Light Heavyweight Title. After a ref bump, Embry brought a chain into the ring. As he charged, Jeff backdropped him, took the chain and leveled Erica for the pin. *** 9) Jerry Lawler beat Kerry Von Erich in a cage to unify the two world belts. (?????) I won't go into it. It's too confusing. Jeff Jarrett slammed the door on Kerry when he tried to get out enabling "The King" to leave the cage first. Lots of heat. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ Crowd was 2,500.

Chic Evans Fieldhouse DeKalb, IL.
Correspondent: Steve "Akeem" Sims

November 1, 1988

1) Brian Costello pinned Ivan "Russian Bull" Petrosky in 3:29 with a roll up. -** 2) Calypso Jim beat Kurt Von Steiner (No relation to Rick or Scott.) with a roll up in 8:11. Another roll up? $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) They had an arm wrestling match between "Prince of Darkness" and "Big" John Moll. The Prince pushed the table over when he was losing and attacked Moll. (Who are these guys Steve? Did you bring them back with you from the dark continent?) * 4) King Parsons over Kendall Windham in 14:56. Kendall tried a sunset flip but Iceman held the ropes and sat on him for the pin. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Samoan Swat Team went to a double count out with Michael Hayes and Steve Cox in 15:53. They didn't work that well although Cox did a dive through the ropes after the finish. ** 6) Kerry Von Erich defeated The Botswana Beast (Dan Reilly's favorite native) in 7:37. On a third bodyslam attempt by M.E.B. (Man Eating Beast) Kerry hooked him and rolled him up. (They must have that move perfected.) * Att: 500

Copernicus Foundation Theatre Chicago, IL.
Correspondents: Steve "Akeem" Sims & Leaping Lanny Levine

November 2, 1988

Does Lance recite poems too? 1) Ivan Petrosky over Brian Costello in 7:14 with a hotshot. * 2) Calypso Jim beat Kurt Von Steiner with a powerslam in 6:13. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) King Parsons double c.o.r. with Kendall Windham in 16:25. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Kerry Von Erich beat the Beast in 8:00 with the same finish as the previous report. * 5) Michael Hayes and Steve Cox beat the S.S.T.'s when Buddy Roberts interfered

and was DDT'd by Hayes and pinned. Was this a tag handicap? * 3/4
Att: 310

War Memorial Arena Johnstown, PA.
Correspondent: John Lanigan

November 10, 1988

1) Original Midnight Express beat Italian Stallion and Dante DeNucci. Randy Rose pinned DeNucci in 12:13. 2) Steve Williams pinned Ron Simmons using the ropes in 9:10. 3) Kevin Sullivan pinned Eddie Gilbert in a brawl at 5:44. 4) Mike Rotunda and Bam Bam Bigelow went to a double count out in 11:24. 5) Road Warriors over Midnight Express in 7:11 as Animal pinned Stan Lane after a clothesline. C+ (No grades for the first four matches as John was in the locker room doing his duties as Deputy Commissioner.) 6) Sting & Lex Luger defeated Ric Flair & Barry Windham by DQ in 18:25. End saw Luger with Windham in a torture rack. Flair came in to kick Lex's feet from under him. Sting came in distracting the ref but Tommy Young turned around in time to see the Heels throwing Luger over the top for the dq. (B) Att: 1549

Pittsburgh Civic Arena Pittsburgh, PA
Correspondent: John Lanigan

November 11, 1988

1) Original Midnights over Dante DeNucci & Jumpin Jack Flash in 4:51. Dennis Condrey pinned DeNucci. D 2) Steve Williams pinned Eddie Gilbert in 10:47. Kevin Sullivan was distracting Eddie when Dr. Death came from behind with the knee in the back. (C) 3) Mike Rotunda drew Nikita Koloff in 19:07 of a 20 minute time limit. (C+) 4) Road Warriors beat Italian Stallion & Ron Simmons in 5:38 as Animal pinned Stallion after a clothesline. (C+) 5) Sting beat Barry Windham on a dq. at 8:59. Barry threw the Stinger over the top rope. (B-) 6) Dusty Rhodes & Bam Bam Bigelow downed The Midnites at 12:22 as Dust pinned Bobby Eaton. This was a wild one as the Original Express ran in and double clotheslined Eaton allowing Dusty to make the pin. Bigelow chased out Rose and Condrey and then all four shook hands. (Booooo) Grade for all that was a D. 7) Ric Flair went to a double count out with Lex Luger at 22:24. They were slugging it out at the end outside the ring. (B+) Att: 3,400

Mars Area Senior High School Mars, PA November 12, 1988
Correspondent: John Lanigan (Three shows in a row. Pheeew.)

I thought John made this city up until I found it on the map. Next month he's going to a show in Jupiter, Ohio. He's going to hit the galaxy instead of the circuit. 1) Dominic DeNucci beat Big Red Machine by dq. in 15:07. Manager Mark Curtis interfered when Dom had Big Red in a stump puller. (D-) 2) Shane Douglas pinned Kurt Kaufmann with a bodyslam in 11:45. (D+) 3) Kim Kozak beat Keystone Kelly in a ladies match. Finish was a flying body press in 8:14. (D-) 4) David Sammartino beat John Valiant in 13:53. Best match of the night. Sammartino pinned Johnny V. after his manager, Mark Curtis accidentally hit Valiant with a foreign object. (This one was from the moon.) (C-) 5) The Heartbreakers beat Preston Steele & Sledgehammer as Bobby Fox pinned Sledgehammer after a dropkick from the top rope. (D) Att: 250

Final Word

Hope everyone enjoyed this issue. Thanks to Scott, Steve, Lance, and John for their reports. Everything sent is greatly appreciated. My next report will be from Springfield 11/4. Me and Dan Reilly will be stopping by to visit Tom Burke before the show so maybe I'll have some late scoops for you. Before I go I'd like to mention a get together that is being planned for February in Philadelphia. Many of the people that went to the U.A.W.F. convention in Memphis will be attending. If you'd like more information, call or write to Steve Sims, P.O. Box 1423, Lisle, IL 60532. His work number is 1-(800)456-7771. He'll be able to give you definite dates. (I hope.) Since it's Saturday afternoon as I type this, I will include results and comments from tonight's Main Event show below. See you in a week.

Ron

Saturday Night's Main Event

1) Ultimate Warrior beat Super Ninja managed by Mr. Fuji. Ninja was a jobber that they threw a mask on. It was simply a squash to get the Warrior over on national t.v. Honkey use to say he was the greatest I-C champ of all time. Well this guy is truly the worst champ of all time.* since Ninja sold everything pretty good. 2) Hercules pinned Virgil in basically another squash with a running powerslam. ** for the selling job by Virg. 3) Andre and Savage went to a double dq. This match was a dud but it ws funny as Jake hid the snake under the ring and Heenan did a good job of looking for it under the ring. Andre's antics during this skit were real good. Heenan took a couple of nice bumps for Randy. * $\frac{1}{2}$ overall. 4) Hacksaw Duggan beat Boris Zuchov after a spear. Three squashes on one Main Event show. Not good. Match was a dud in this flag match where the U.S. flag was raised to the rafters. They then had a Brother Love segment in the ring with Slick and Hulk Hogan. There was really no point to this as it was basically insult time. Bro Love and Bro Slick did a good job with their pulling the mic away everytime Hulk went to answer their questions. Hogan was lost when it was his turn. He eventually threw Slick over the top rope and body slammed Pritchard. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 5) Fabulous Rougeaus defeated Powers and Roma using that move off the top rope where one of the brothers has Powers in a bearhug and the other crotches him in the face. (Best way to explain it I guess.) They announced that the Rougeaus have finally settled in the United States. They picked Memphis, TN. I heard two houses away from Jerry Lawler and two blocks from Disgraceland, Honkey's home where he lives with Peggy Sue. Hey, I could make a movie out of all this. Match gets * because it was too short and really, not much happened. Overall the show was below par. Jesse and Vince were okay with Jesse having a couple of classics. One that I loved was when the American flag was in the air and Duggan was saluting it, they showed a lady in the audience saluting with the wrong hand and Jesse commented on it. Pretty funny stuff, guess you had to watch it.

Bye!